

## REDUCTION OF VISA FEES FOR NONIMMIGRANTS

*Exchanges of notes at Washington September 11 and 30 and December 9, 14 and 17, 1929, supplementing agreement of March 29 and 31, 1928*

*Entered into force February 1, 1930*

*Replaced by agreement of November 12 and 13, 1931<sup>1</sup>*

Department of State files

*The Netherlands Legation to the Department of State*

No. 3350

WASHINGTON, D.C.

### NOTA VERBALE

By notes of March 30th [29th] and 31st, 1928<sup>2</sup> exchanged between the State Department and the Royal Netherland Legation it has been agreed upon that the visa fees in case of nonimmigrants should be reduced in the case of Dutch subjects who are proceeding to the United States from \$10.00 to \$1.00 and in the case of American citizens proceeding to the Netherlands from Fl. 25.00 to Fl. 2.50.

The attention of the Foreign Office at The Hague has been drawn upon the fact that after this agreement the reciprocity is not entirely complete. In fact the Netherland visa is valid for two years and the American visa only for one year, so that in certain cases from a Netherland subject a fee twice as high should have to be taken than from an American citizen.

As the Netherlands have agreed to the final act of the Passport Convention of Geneva of 1926 where for passports and visa a validity of two years has been adopted it would be rather difficult for the Netherland Government to make a discrimination to this policy specially against citizens of the United States.

For this reason the Royal Netherland Legation has the honor to ask the State Department if it could suggest a just and equitable solution to this problem compatible with the laws and regulations of the United States.

WASHINGTON, D.C.,

*September 11, 1929.*

<sup>1</sup> *Post*, p. 110.

<sup>2</sup> *Ante*, p. 89.

*The Department of State to the Netherlands Legation*

The Secretary of State refers to the Royal Netherland Legation's Note Verbale No. 3350 of September 11, 1929, suggesting, with reference to a reciprocal agreement recently concluded under which the passport visa fee for Netherland subjects who are non-immigrants was reduced from \$10.00 to \$1.00, that the validity of American passport visas be two years instead of one year, thus effecting complete reciprocity of treatment between nationals of the two countries concerned.

In reply, the Legation is advised that the Department, while not in a position under its regulations to authorize the issue by American consular officers abroad of passport visas valid for two years, will nevertheless be glad to supplement the agreement in question by the addition of the following conditions for the issue of passport visas to Netherland subjects thereunder.

The visa itself may be valid for one year and good for any number of visits, provided the non-immigrant status of its recipient is maintained and the passport remains valid. A second visa subject to the same conditions may be issued gratis if applied for by the date of the expiration of the original visa or within one year thereafter, provided that the validity of such visa shall not exceed one year nor extend beyond two years from the date on which the original visa was issued, and provided further that the passport on which the original visa was placed has not expired.

The Department will be pleased to be advised whether the conditions suggested would be satisfactory and if such be the case it will take immediate steps to send appropriate notification to its consular officers abroad, including a statement as to the date when the change is to become effective, which it is suggested be fixed as November 1, 1929.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

WASHINGTON, *September 30, 1929.*

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*The Netherlands Legation to the Department of State*

No. 4208

WASHINGTON, D.C.

By note of September 30, 1929 the Department of State was kind enough to inform the Royal Netherland Legation that it would be glad to supplement the agreement concerning the reducing of the passport visa fee for Netherland subjects who are non-immigrants and American citizens with a provision that under certain conditions a second visa may be issued gratis to holders of Netherland passports.

Acting upon instructions from its Government the Netherland Legation has the honor to inform the State Department, that the conditions as sug-

gested in the above mentioned note of September 30, 1929 are satisfactory to the Netherland Government and that the Minister of Foreign Affairs appreciates the intention of the Secretary of State to send appropriate notification to the consular officers of the United States abroad.

The Legation would highly appreciate being informed when this notification will be sent and at what date the change in the visa instructions will become effective.

WASHINGTON, D.C.,  
December 9, 1929.

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*The Department of State to the Netherlands Legation*

The Secretary of State refers to the Royal Netherland Legation's Note No. 4208 of October [December] 9, 1929, expressing its approval of the Department's note of September 30, 1929, suggesting an extension in the scope of the existing reciprocal agreement for the reduction of passport visa fees.

The Department is pleased to note the Legation's acceptance of its proposals and would suggest that the change in question be effective as of February 1, 1930.

Immediately upon the receipt of a statement from the Legation that the latter date is acceptable, the Department will send appropriate notifications to its officers abroad.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,  
WASHINGTON, December 14, 1929.

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*The Netherlands Legation to the Department of State*

No. 4365

WASHINGTON, D.C.

The Minister of the Netherlands has the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the note of the Honorable Secretary of State, dated December 14, 1929, suggesting that the change in the existing reciprocal agreement for the reduction of passport visa fees become effective on February 1, 1930.

The Netherland Minister is pleased to state, that this date is entirely acceptable to the Royal Legation.

WASHINGTON, D.C.,  
December 17, 1929.